

WHAT

WHAT was it that Charlie saw to-day,
Down in the pool where the cattle lie,
A shoal of spotted trout at play,
Or a sheeny dragon-fly?

The fly and the fish were there, indeed;
But as for the puzzle—guess again!
It was neither a shell, nor flower, nor reed,
Nor the nest of a last year's wren.

Some willows droop to the brooklet's bed,—
Who knows but a bee had fallen down;
Or a spider, swung from his broken thread,
Was learning the way to drown!

You have not read me the riddle yet;
Not even the wing of a wounded bee,
Nor the web of a spider, torn and wet,
Did Charlie this morning see.

Now answer, you have grown so wise,
What could the wonderful sight have been
But the dimpled face and great blue eyes
Of the rogne who was looking in!

WHAT TO DO WITH A BAD TEMPER.

STARVE it. Give it nothing to feed on. When something tempts you to grow angry, do not yield to the temptation. It may for a minute or two be difficult to control yourself, but try it. Force yourself to do nothing, to say nothing, and the rising temper will be obliged to go down because it has nothing to hold it up. The person who can and does control tongue, hands, heart, in the face of great provocation, is a hero. The world may not own him or her as such, but God does. The Bible says that he that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city.

What is gained by yielding to temper! For a moment there is a feeling of relief, but soon comes a sense of sorrow and shame, with a wish that the temper had been controlled. Friends are separated by a bad temper; trouble is caused by it, and pain given to others as well as to self. That pain too often lasts for days, even years: sometimes for life. An outbreak of temper is like the bursting of a steam-boiler: it is impossible to tell beforehand what will be the result. The evil done may never be remedied. Starve your temper. It is not worth keeping alive. Let it die.—Forward.

WHAT KILLED THE OYSTER.

PICK up that oyster-shell. Do you see a little hole in the hard roof of the oyster's house! That explains why there is a shell but no oyster. A little creature called the whelk, living in a spiral shell, dropped one day on the roof of the oyster's house. "The little innocents," some one has called the whelks. "The little villains!" an oyster would call them; for the whelk has an augur, and bores and bores and bores until he reaches the oyster itself, and the poor oyster finds it is going up through its own roof. It goes up, but never comes down.

A writer speaks of noticing on the shores of Brittany great numbers of the shells of oysters which had been bored by their enemy—both burglar and murderer, we should call it.

"A little sin, a little sin!" cries a boy who may have been caught saying a profane word, or strolling with a bad associate, or reading a bad book, or sipping a glass of beer. "Don't make too much of it," he says.

Young friend, that is the whelk on the oyster's back. You have given the tempter a chance to use his auger,

and he will bore and bore till he reaches the centre of all moral worth in the soul, and draws your very life away.

GREEDY TOM.

TOM had four brothers, and they all loved apples. "How strange!" you say; but it is true. One day Tom went out to the orchard. Apples were just getting ripe, and there were some bright golden ones on the ground. Tom filled his pockets and went to the house.

"Give me an apple," said Ben.
"No; I haven't any more than I want for myself," said Tom.

"I want an apple," whined little Will.

"An' so do I," said Bob
"Oh, you keep still; I want 'em all myself," growled Tom.

"Now, Tom," said his mother, "you give your brothers some apples right away; you shall not be so selfish."

Poor Tom! He looked first at one, and then at another, and at last he whined, "O mother, they're all too ripe!"

That is just like some boys and girls whom I know. They want all the good things for themselves, and cannot be happy if they think anybody else has something nice. It is a bad, selfish spirit; and if I were a boy I'd never be willing to be like greedy Tom. I'd rather be a spendthrift, and throw away everything I had, than to cramp my heart up to the size of a pin-head.

NEVER despair of the mercy of God, for you never can be where it cannot reach you.

"HURRY, mamma!" said the little innocent with his cut finger; "it's leaking."

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Sept. 26.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

Lesson I. *Jesus and the Blind Man.* John 9. 1-17.—What unfortunate man did Jesus meet by the way? What help did he give him? What command did he say upon him? What was the result of his obedience? What was the blind man's testimony? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson II. *Jesus the Good Shepherd.* John 10. 1-18.—Of whom is Jesus the shepherd? Why does his flock follow him? Who are his flock? What is the mark of a good shepherd? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson III. *The Death of Lazarus.* John 11. 1-16.—What message of sorrow was sent to Jesus? What did Jesus say of the news? How long did he wait before seeking his friends? What did he then say to his disciples? (GOLDEN TEXT.) What explanation did he give them?

Lesson IV. *The Resurrection of Lazarus.* John 11. 17-44.—How long after the death of Lazarus before Jesus came to Bethany? What did Martha and Mary say to him? What was his comforting assurance? (GOLDEN TEXT.) How did Jesus show his love for Lazarus? What command did he give his dead friend? What followed this command?

Lesson V. *Jesus Honoured.* John 12. 1-16.—Who made a feast to Jesus? What special honour did Mary show him? What did Jesus say of this honour? What honour was given him on his way to Jerusalem? What was the song of the people? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VI. *Gentiles Seeking Jesus.* John 12. 20-36.—Who besides Jesus was at the passover? What was their request? What was the prayer of Jesus? What answer did he receive? What did Jesus say of his own death? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VII. *Jesus Teaching Humility.* John 13. 1-17.—What service did Jesus render to his disciples? At what feast was this done? What disciples made objection at first? What reason did Jesus give for this service? How were they to benefit by his example? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson VIII. *Warning to Judas and Peter.* John 13. 21-28.—What did Jesus foretell of one of his disciples? By what sign was the betrayer revealed? What was Jesus' warning to Judas? What offer did Peter make? What did Jesus prophesy of him? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Lesson IX. *Jesus Comforting his Disciples.* John 14. 1-14.—How did Jesus comfort his disciples? (GOLDEN TEXT.) Where did he promise them a home? Whom has the Son revealed to the world? By what was this revelation confirmed? What privilege was granted the praying believer?

Lesson X. *Jesus the True Vine.* John 15. 1-16.—Who are the branches of the vine? (GOLDEN TEXT.) What is expected of them? How may men become fruitful? What is the end of the barren branches? What will secure our abiding in Christ?

Lesson XI. *The Mission of the Spirit.* John 16. 5-20.—What did the ascension of Jesus secure to his disciples? What is the mission of the Spirit to believers? (GOLDEN TEXT.) What is his office with unbelievers? Whom will he glorify?

Lesson XII. *Jesus Interceding.* John 17. 1-20.—With whom did Jesus intercede? For whom? What had Jesus manifested to the disciples? What did he ask for them? Who besides were included in his prayer? What intercession is still continued? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A. D. 80.] LESSON I. [Oct. 3.

JESUS BETRAYED.

John 13. 1-14. Commit to mem. vs. 4-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Mark 14 41.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Approach of Judas, v. 1-9.
- 2. The Defence of Peter, v. 10-11.
- 3. The Arrest of Jesus, v. 12-14.

TIME. The same night as in Lessons VII to XI. of Third Quarter.

PLACE.—A garden over the brook Kidron. The name not given by John. Gethsemane. Oil-press. A place of frequent resort for Jesus when at Jerusalem. Across the brook and a little up the hill-side.

EXPLANATIONS.—A garden—Gethsemane: an inclosure on the side of the Mount of Olives—a favourite retreat of Jesus; not only a garden as our flower gardens, but a park. A band of men—A guard of Roman soldiers and a rabble of Jews. Lanterns and torches and weapons—The old olive-trees in the garden made it dark, and they must not fail now to find and seize Jesus. Went backward—Jesus was fearless and composed. His appearance and boldness abashed these wicked men. Let him go—He does not forget his disciples but secures their release. The cup . . . shall I not drink—Not a real cup of wine, but the terrible ordeal he was to pass through for sin.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where, in this lesson, are we shown—
- 1. The treachery of a false disciple?
- 2. The love of a true teacher?
- 3. Perfect submission to the Divine will?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did Jesus and the disciples go after the last supper? To the garden of Gethsemane. 2. Who sought for him there? Judas and a band of men. 3. What did they do to Jesus? They seized him and bound him. 4. Before what two rulers did the band take Jesus? Before Annas and Caiaphas, the high-priests. 5. What did Jesus say of their conduct in the GOLDEN TEXT? "The Son," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The dominion of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

49. How was man the chief creature on earth? Because the Creator made man in his own image.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.—Genesis 1. 27.

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